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May 6, 2013

EX PARTE

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In re Media Bureau and Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
Seek Comment on Second VPAAC Report: User Interfaces, and Video
Programming Guides and Menus, MB Docket No. 12-108

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 6, 2013, on behalf of the National Associations of Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the undersigned circulated the attached letter to the following individuals by email:

Lyle Elder, Legal Advisor, Office of Chairman Genachowski
Dave Grimaldi, Chief of Staff and Media Advisor, Office of Commissioner Clyburn
Alex Hoehn-Saric, Policy Director, Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel
Priscilla Delgado Argeris, Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel
Matthew Berry, Chief of Staff, Office of Commissioner Pai
Erin McGrath, Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner McDowell
Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Chief, Office of Consumer Information Bureau
Holly Saurer, Legal Advisor, Media Bureau
John Norton, Legal Advisor, Media Bureau
Susan Aaron, Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this letter and the attached are being electronically filed via ECFS with your office. Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

BBK
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Sincerely,



Gerard Lavery Lederer
for BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

Attachment

cc: Lyle Elder, Legal Advisor, Office of Chairman Genachowski
Dave Grimaldi, Chief of Staff and Media Advisor, Office of Commissioner Clyburn
Alex Hoehn-Saric, Policy Director, Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel
Priscilla Delgado Argeris, Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel
Matthew Berry, Chief of Staff, Office of Commissioner Pai
Erin McGrath, Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner McDowell
Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Chief, Office of Consumer Information Bureau
Holly Saurer, Legal Advisor, Media Bureau
John Norton, Legal Advisor, Media Bureau
Susan Aaron, Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel

National Association of Counties
U.S. Conference of Mayors
National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors

Re: Inclusion of Community Media in Onscreen Program Guides (MB Docket No. 12-108)

Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners McDowell, Clyburn, Rosenworcel and Pai:

The undersigned, on behalf of our organizations, write to add our voices in strong support of the Commission's efforts to enact regulations pursuant to the Twenty-First Century and Video Accessibility Act of 2012 (CVAA) to ensure that video program description information, onscreen text menus, channels names, and other essential features of devices used to access cable and video programming are accessible in real time to all in society. Our organizations strongly support the Commission's efforts to convert the legislative mandates of the CVAA into practical safeguards.

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Commission make the CVAA even more meaningful by requiring cable operators to carry community provided local program information and local channel names on their onscreen program guides, if the community chooses to provide that information. For local government the issue of accessibility and availability are intertwined. If a cable operator is not required to make available program information for community programming in the same manner as the cable operators makes information on other channels carried on the basic tier of cable programming, then it is the same as failing to ensure access to that information.

Finally, as we understand the state of technology, increasingly cable guides, rather than channels will be surfed. We also understand that technology not unlike Siri on an iPhone could soon be employed for channel guides. Absent information included in the channel guide for community programming, no results will be displayed for community programming because the cable operator has not include the channel name or program descriptions in its searchable guide. The FCC can fix this by requiring cable operators to carry local channel names and program information that is voluntarily provided by the local community on the on-screen guide.

Sincerely,

National Association of Counties, Yejin Jang, yjang@naco.org, 202-942-4239.
U.S. Conference of Mayors, Kevin McCarty, kmccarty@usmayors.org 202-861-6728
National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, Steve Traylor,
straylor@natoa.org 703-519-8035